

# **General Explanation of Implementation Schedule**

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Introduction. Several key National Weather Service (NWS) hydrologic products will undergo significant changes during 2006 and early 2007. These changes can be summarized as implementation of a new segmented format and Valid Time Event Code, or VTEC. Several schedule delays have been necessary in the past due to difficulties with implementing the software applications used to generate the products. This document provides the latest available plan for implementing segmentation and VTEC in hydrologic products.

## **Product Segmentation -**

Flood Warnings For Forecast Points

Areal Flood Warnings

Areal Flood Advisories

The NWS has 122 Weather Forecast Offices (WFO). After updated product generation applications are installed at each WFO over a period from February to July, 2006, each office will begin issuing areal flood warnings, areal flood advisories, and flood warnings for forecast points in a segmented format, as stated in [Service Change Notice 06-02](#).. Because the installation schedule for the updated applications is staggered over several months, a few WFOs will start issuing these segmented products in February, 2006 and all 122 WFOs will be doing so by July, 2006. Note: flash flood statements (the follow-product for flash flood warnings) are already segmented.

## **VTEC Implementation -**

Flood Warnings for Forecast Points

Flood Watches for Forecast Points

Flood Advisories for Forecast Points

Risk Reduction. As stated in [Service Change Notice 06-10](#) , beginning in April, 2006, and after their updated product generation applications have been installed, certain WFOs will begin issuing operational flood warnings, watches, and advisories for forecast points with experimental VTEC (i.e., Product Class code “X”) as part of a risk reduction activity. WFOs participating in this risk reduction activity will be listed in the “WFO Schedule for Implementation of VTEC” table on this web page.

Operational Test and Evaluation. In the May–June 2006 time frame, certain WFOs will begin issuing flood warnings, watches, and advisories for forecast points with experimental VTEC as part of an official Operational Test & Evaluation (OT&E) of the upgraded product generation application. WFOs participating in this OT&E will be listed in the “WFO Schedule for Implementation of VTEC” table on this web page.

National Implementation. Following a successful OT&E, the flood warnings, watches, and advisories for forecast points with VTEC will become nationally operational in the December 2006–February 2007 time frame. Note: areal flood watches already contain operational VTEC at this time.

## **VTEC Implementation -**

Flash Flood Products  
Areal Flood Warnings  
Areal Advisories

Risk Reduction. In the January, 2007 time frame, selected WFOs will begin issuing flash flood products (flash flood warnings and statements), areal flood warnings (and follow-up statements), and areal advisories with experimental VTEC as part of a risk reduction activity. WFOs participating in this risk reduction activity will be listed in the “WFO Schedule for Implementation of VTEC” table on this web page.

Operational Test and Evaluation. In the April–May 2007 time frame, certain WFOs will begin issuing flash flood products (flash flood warnings and statements), areal flood warnings (and follow-up statements), and areal advisories with experimental VTEC as part of an official OT&E of the upgraded product generation application. WFOs participating in this OT&E will be listed in the “WFO Schedule for Implementation of VTEC” table on this web page.

National Implementation. Following a successful OT&E, the areal hydrologic products with VTEC will become nationally operational in the June–August, 2007 time frame.